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SENSITIVE SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: TFHA01: HAITI EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE SITUATION REPORT
NO. 53

STATE 00010166 001.2 OF 003

VIP TRAVEL

1. (SBU) A 22-member congressional delegation is planning a four-hour stopover in Port-au-Prince February 5. (TF1/WHA-EX e-mail)

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)

2. (SBU) Twelve Fairfax County SAR staff will remain on standby in Port-au-Prince. (TF1/DART Team e-mail)

3. (SBU) A SAR team has recovered remains believed to be those of a Lynn University student. Consular Affairs is in contact with the family. (TF1/Interagency Conference Call)

COMMODITY FLOW

4. (SBU) Three food facilities will open February 1. DART teams are assessing additional potential sites. (TF1/Interagency Conference Call)

EVACUATIONS/AMERICAN CITIZEN AND LE STAFF WHEREABOUTS

5. (SBU) As of 1400 EST, 625 American evacuees and family members departed Port-au-Prince February 1; a total of 14,382 have been evacuated to date. There are 300 Americans and family members inside the Embassy and 100 outside. As of 1400

EST, 100 potential evacuees arrived at the Embassy. A total of 22,500 potential evacuees have been accounted for. (TF1/Embassy Port-au-Prince e-mail)

¶16. (SBU) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) deployed a "pre-departure" team to authenticate American citizen travel documents and verify identities. CBP efforts now have extended to include legal permanent residents. (TF1/Haiti CAT e-mail)

¶17. (SBU) There are approximately 30 potential evacuees outside the airport terminal and 150 at the alternative landing zone on the tarmac waiting to board outgoing flights. (TF1/Embassy Port-au-Prince e-mail)

¶18. (SBU) There are no updates on LE Staff whereabouts. (TF1/Embassy Port-au-Prince e-mail)

MEDICAL RESPONSE

¶19. (SBU) Defense Department medical assets have treated a total of 2,304 patients. (TF1/Interagency Conference Call)

¶110. (SBU) USTRANSCOM resumed evacuation of Haitian patients to the United States on a limited basis. The first patient is being medevacked to Palm Beach, Florida. (TF1/Interagency Conference Call)

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION/REQUESTS

¶111. (SBU) The Colombian government will transport three Haitian patients triaged at a Colombian military field hospital in Port-au-Prince to Bogota February 2 for medical treatment. (TF1/Embassy Bogota e-mail)

DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSETS

¶112. (SBU) USS Carl Vinson, USS Bunker Hill, and USNS Henson have been released by Secretary Gates to depart from Haiti. Ten helicopters from the USS Carl Vinson will remain to assist with relief efforts. (TF1/USSOUTHCOM TF1 Representative)

¶113. (SBU) USNS Dwayne Williams arrived in Port-au-Prince January 31 with a 150-bed temporary Expeditionary Medical Facility. (TF1/Interagency Conference Call)

HUMANITARIAN/SECURITY/INFRASTRUCTURE

¶114. (SBU) Bank and wire transfer facilities are operating. An inbound cash shipment from HSBC to the Haitian Central Bank is scheduled to arrive February 1. (TF1/Interagency Conference Call)

¶115. (SBU) As of 0900 EST, 578 orphans departed Haiti while Citizenship and Immigration Services processed 775 parole cases (34 medical, 602 humanitarian, and 139 other). (TF1/DHS e-mail)

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

¶116. (SBU) Haiti's Chief Prosecutor reported charges were filed against the ten American citizens arrested January 31. The AmCits were charged for abduction of minors, illegal trafficking of children, and organized malfeasance. Embassy Port-au-Prince has been in contact with the arrested AmCits. (TF1/Embassy Port-au-Prince e-mail)

¶117. (SBU) Ambassador Merten will raise several orphan cases with PM Bellerive. Embassy Port-au-Prince intends to process approximately 44 orphan cases pending Bellerive's approval. A total of 178 orphan cases are being processed. (TF1/Interagency Conference Call)

¶18. (SBU) Some Haitian parliamentarians are proposing President Preval postpone upcoming elections and extend parliament's term by two years. The initiative is pending legislative consideration and has been opposed by key parliamentarians. The initiative might be unconstitutional. (TF1/Embassy Port-au-Prince)

¶19. (SBU) Interior Minister Bien-Aime and other political figures called for President Preval's resignation amidst increasing criticism of the GoH's response to the earthquake. (TF1/Embassy Port-au-Prince)

¶20. (SBU) Chilean President Bachelet will be the UN Development Fund (UNIFEM) international spokesperson for the women and children of Haiti. (El Mercurio)

¶21. (U) Additional updates are available through our Intellipedia portal on the unclassified system at: http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Crisis_Haiti_Earthquake.

¶22. (U) Minimize considered.
CLINTON